

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A wound closure dressing of controlled stretchability that is both liquid and pathogen impermeable; said dressing comprising an adhesive layer of flexible and stretchable pressure-sensitive adhesive material; said adhesive material being liquid-absorbent and comprising a continuous phase of an elastomeric adhesive and a discontinuous phase of hydrocolloid particles dispersed throughout said continuous phase; a stretchable and contractible backing layer secured to one side of said adhesive layer; and a multiplicity of flexible but substantially non-stretchable reinforcing members secured to and extending in spaced parallel relation in a single direction and in no other directions across said dressing for preventing stretching of said dressing only in the direction ~~directions~~ parallel with said members while allowing stretching and contraction of said dressing in all other directions.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 1 in which said reinforcing members comprise spaced parallel flexible but substantially non-stretchable filaments.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 2 in which said filaments are arranged in spaced parallel groups.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 1 in which said filaments extend in parallel relation along substantially the same plane.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 3 in which said filaments extend along a side of said adhesive layer opposite from said one side.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 3 in which said filaments extend between said backing layer and said adhesive layer.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 1 in which said reinforcing members comprise spaced parallel strips of flexible but substantially non-stretchable material.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 7 in which said strips extend in parallel relation along substantially the same plane.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 7 in which said strips extend along a side of said adhesive layer opposite from said one side.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The wound disclosure dressing of claim 7 in which said strips extend between said backing layer and said adhesive layer.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 7 in which said strips extend between said backing layer and said adhesive layer.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 1 in which said backing layer and said adhesive layer have a transparency allowing visual inspection through said dressing of a wound site covered by said dressing.

Claim 13 (cancelled).